



# **Protecting Our Natural Resources Creatively and Cost-Effectively**

Environment Virginia

**The Honorable L . Preston Bryant, Jr.**  
Secretary of Natural Resources

**Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources**



*"The nation behaves well if it treats  
the natural resources as assets  
which it must turn over to the next  
generation increased, and not  
impaired, in value."*

– President Theodore Roosevelt

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# **Our History, Our Natural Resources**

- The Virginia Way...
  - Protecting and preserving Virginia's historic and natural resources while honoring our long-time commitment to economic development.

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# Our History, Our Natural Resources

- Virginia's history and Virginia's historic natural resources are intertwined.
  - Founders' Rivers
    - James
    - Potomac
    - Rappahannock
  - Chesapeake Bay
  - Blue Ridge & Alleghany Mountains
  - Shenandoah Valley – Battlefields

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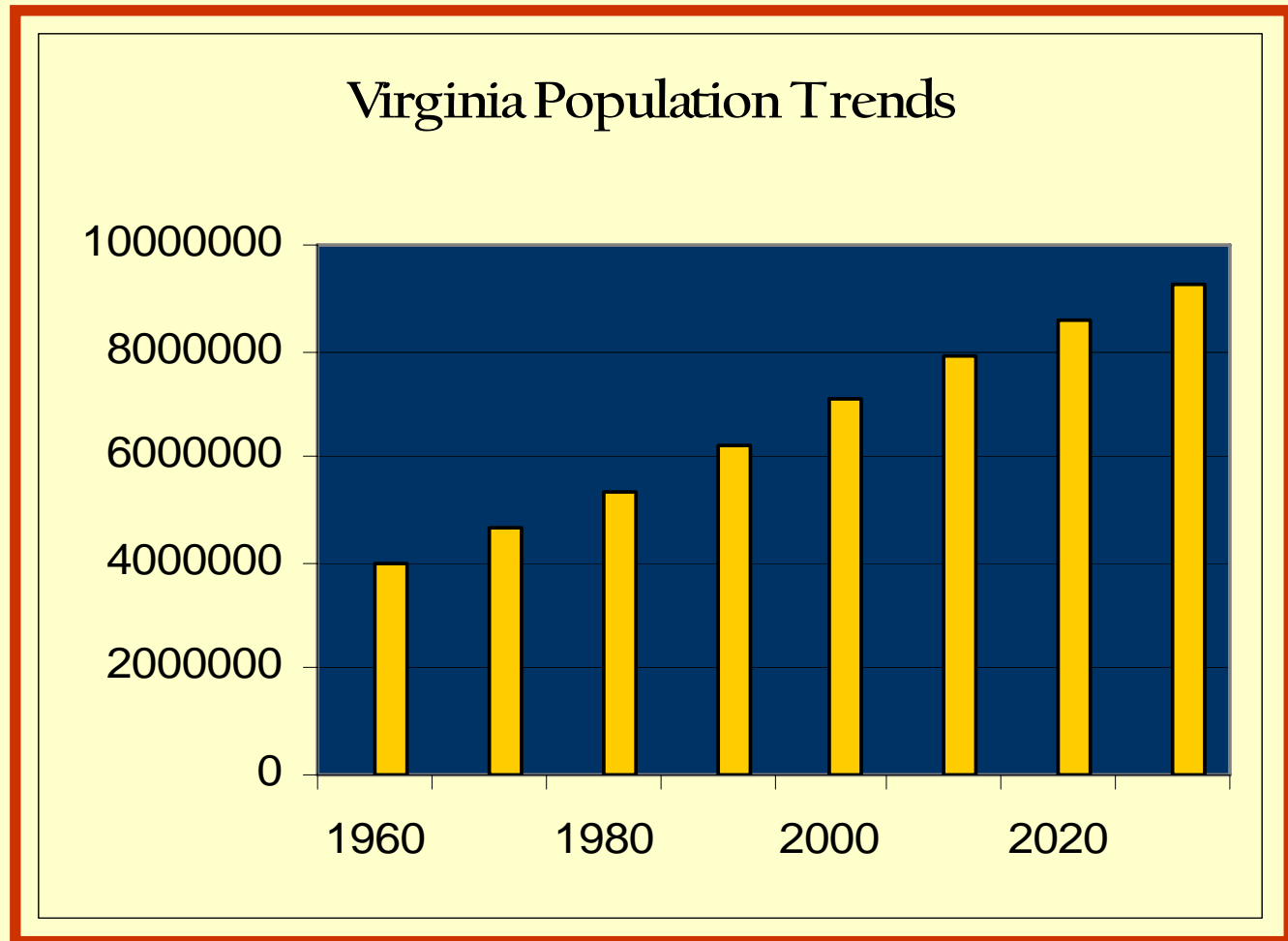


# **The Case For Stewardship...**

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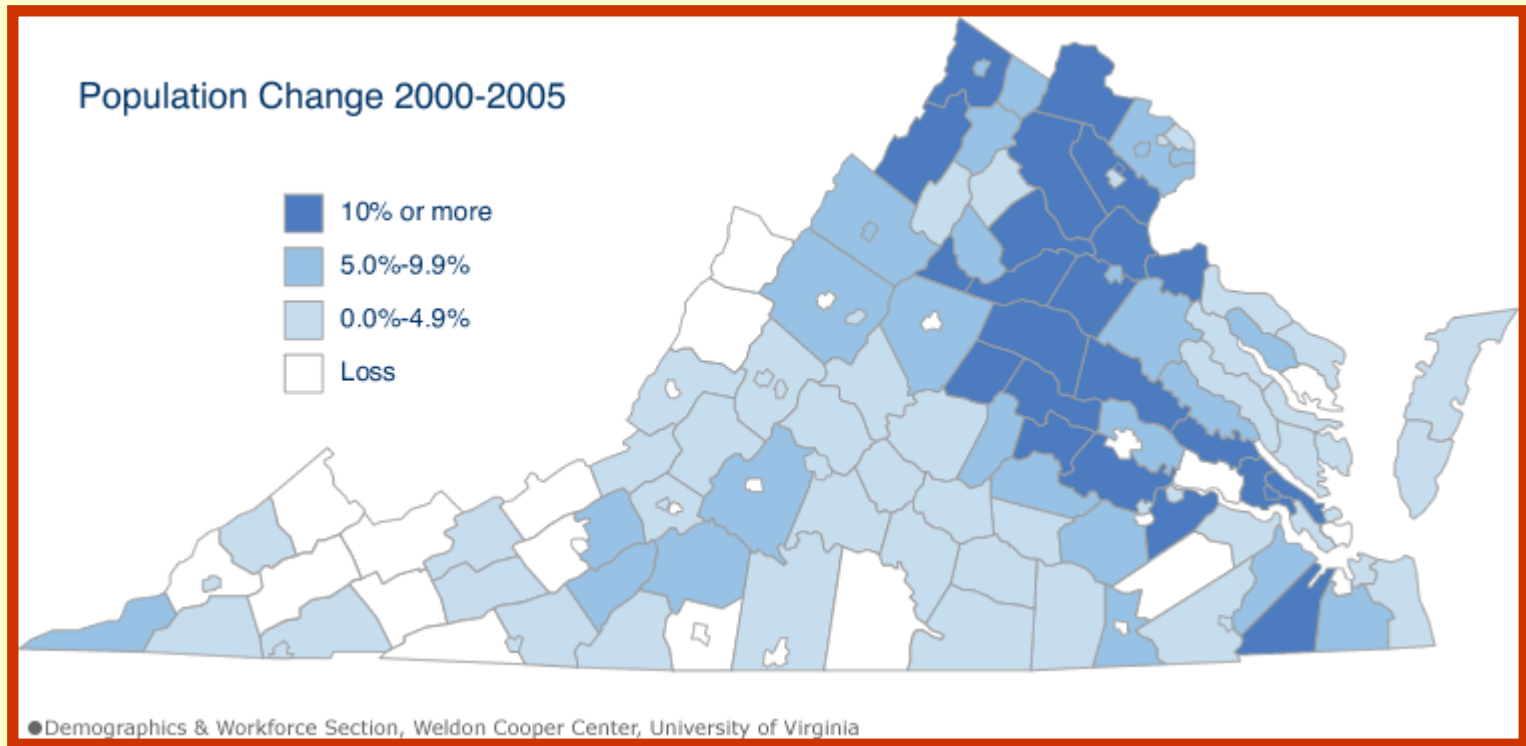
# Population Trends



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# Population Trends



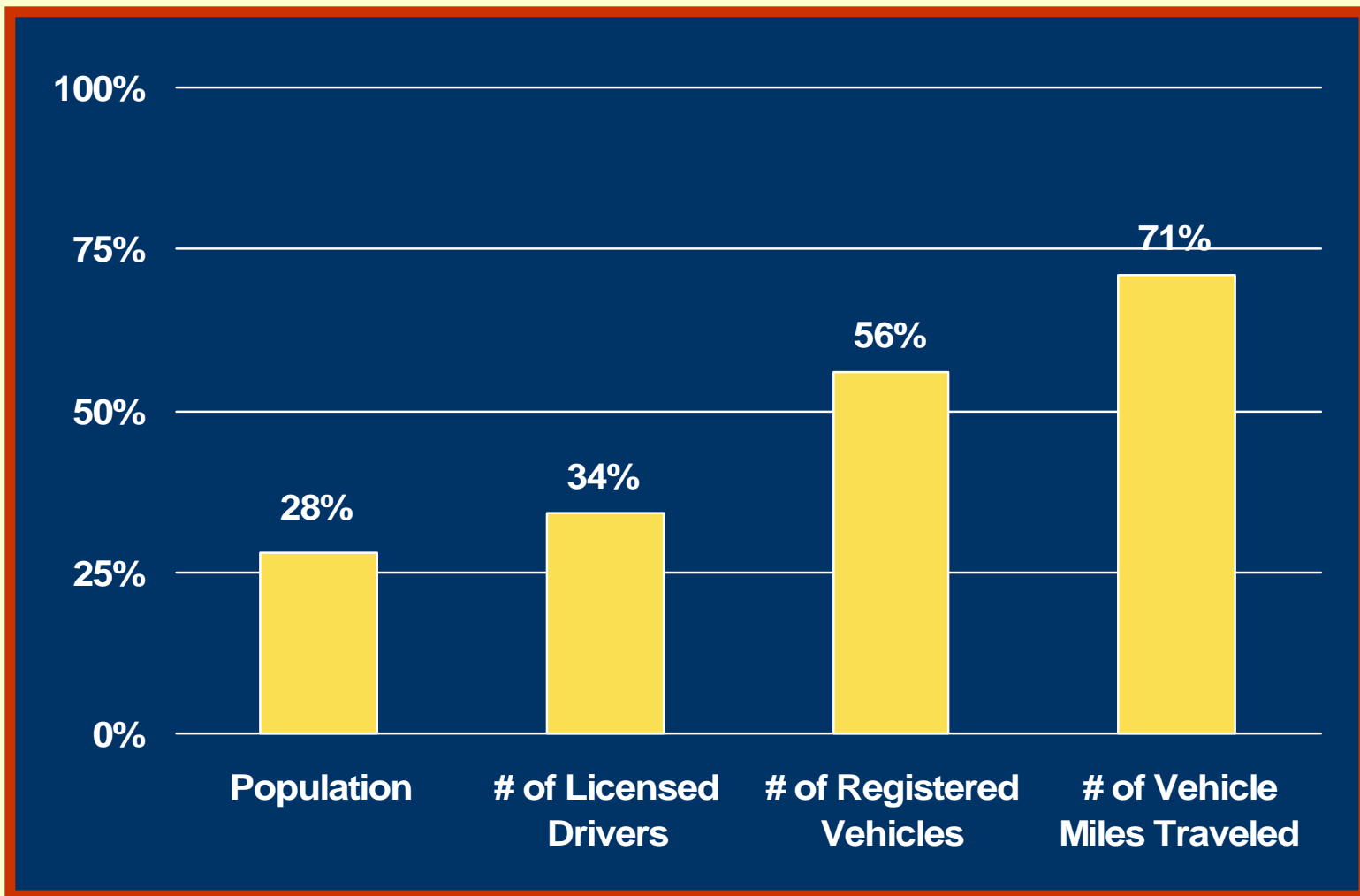
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# Transportation Trends

1986-2004

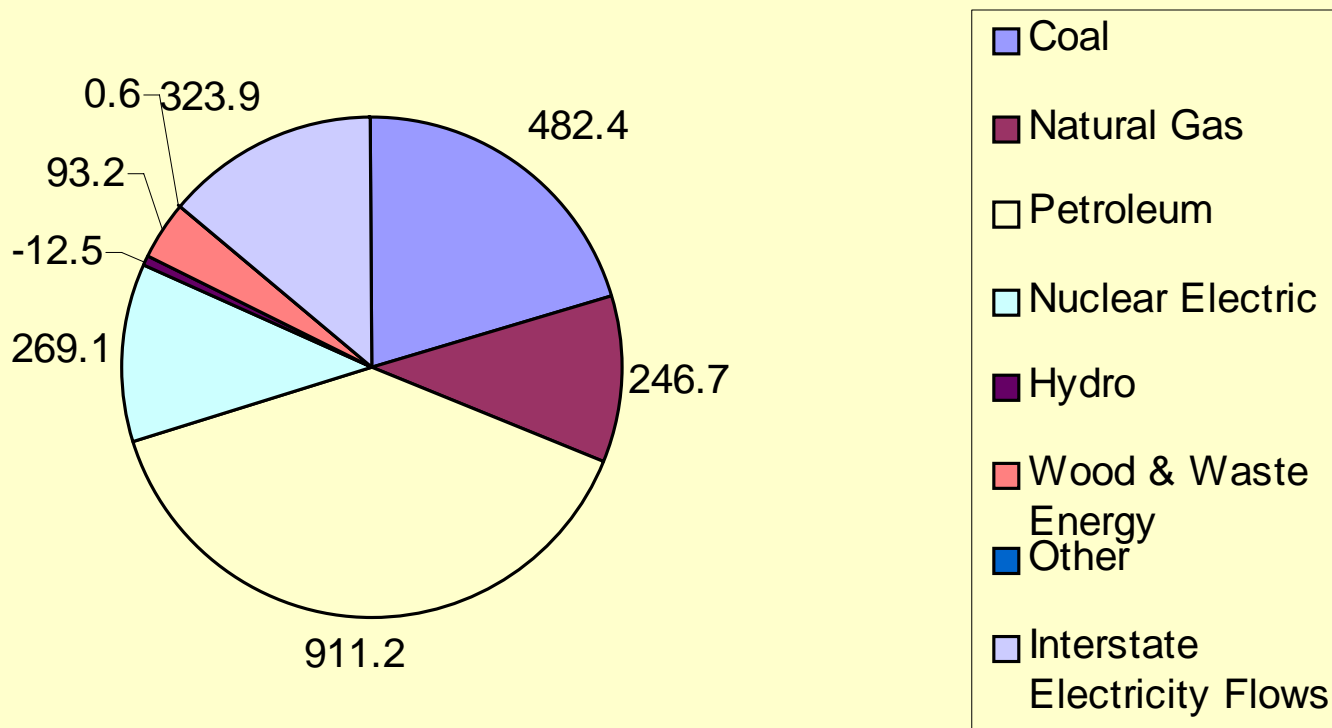


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# Energy Trends

Virginia Energy Consumption Trillion BTUs

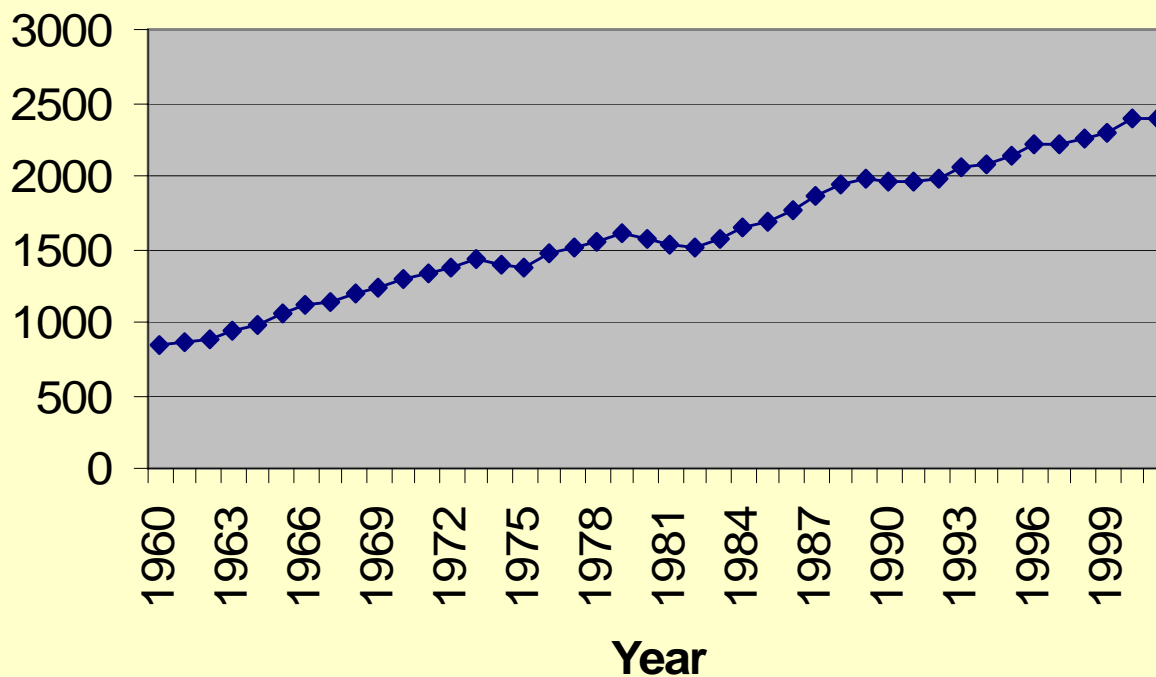


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# Energy Trends

**Total Virginia Energy Consumption,  
Trillion BTUs**

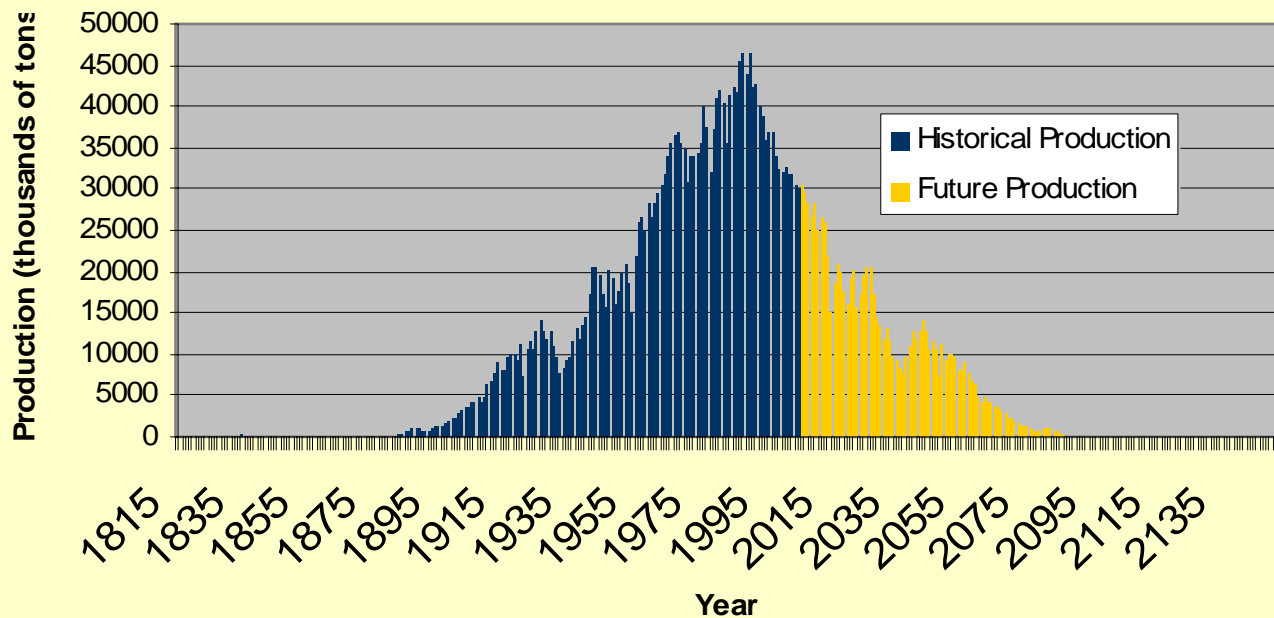


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# Energy Trends

## Virginia Coal Production



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# Trends demonstrate stress level.



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# **Maintaining the Status Quo...**

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# Maintaining the Status Quo

So ...

- Population is up
- Transportation is up
- Energy consumption is up

All part of a growing, healthy state ...

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# Maintaining the Status Quo

But ...

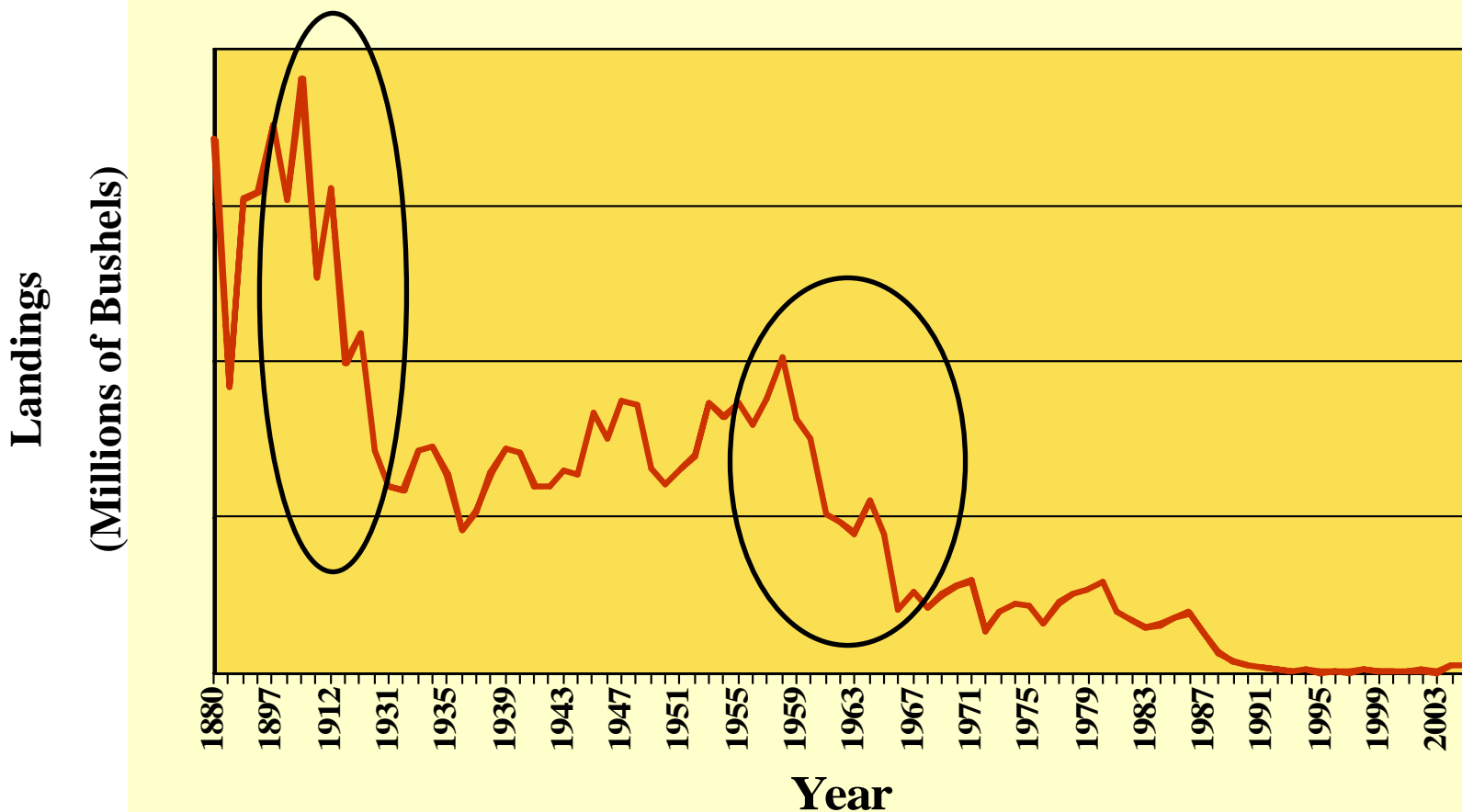
- What happens when growth does not balance with our natural resources?





# Case In Point....

## Oyster Landings (1880 - 2005)



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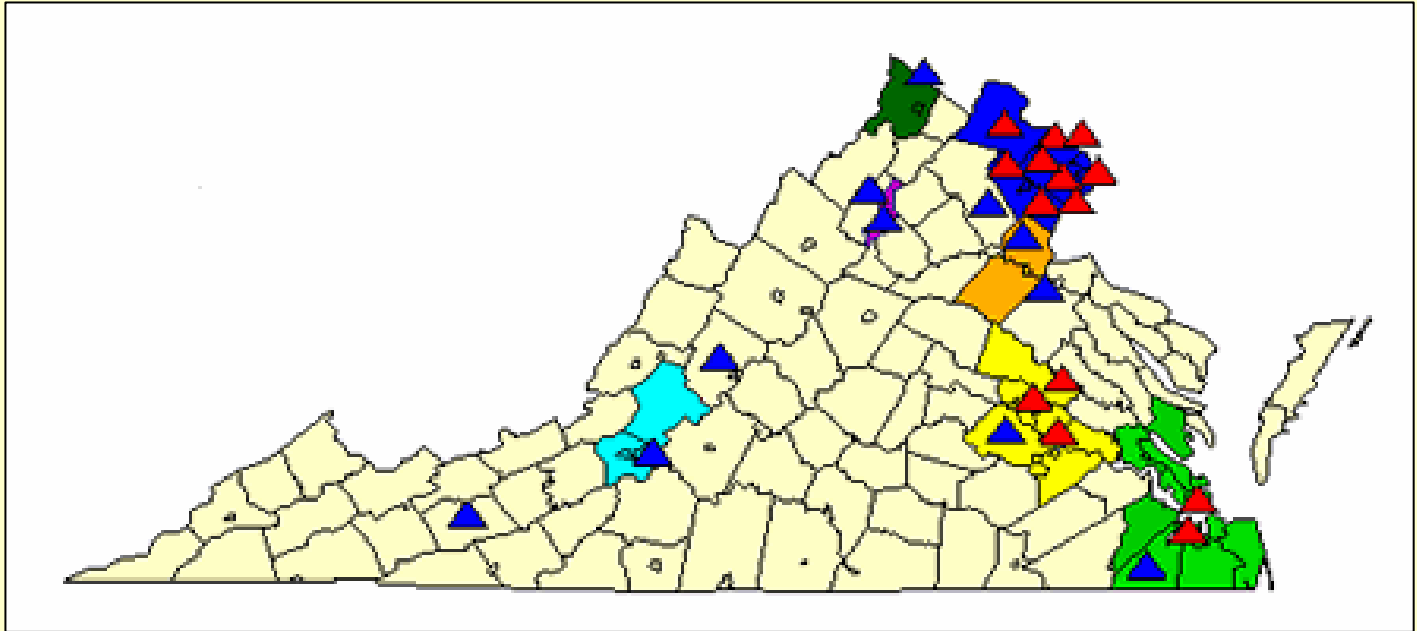


# **Current Snapshot ...**

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# **Air Quality Ozone Non-Attainment Areas**



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# Air Quality

- Implement SB 651 and HB 1055 – Virginia Clean Smokestacks Legislation
- Mercury Study
- Vehicle Emissions Reductions

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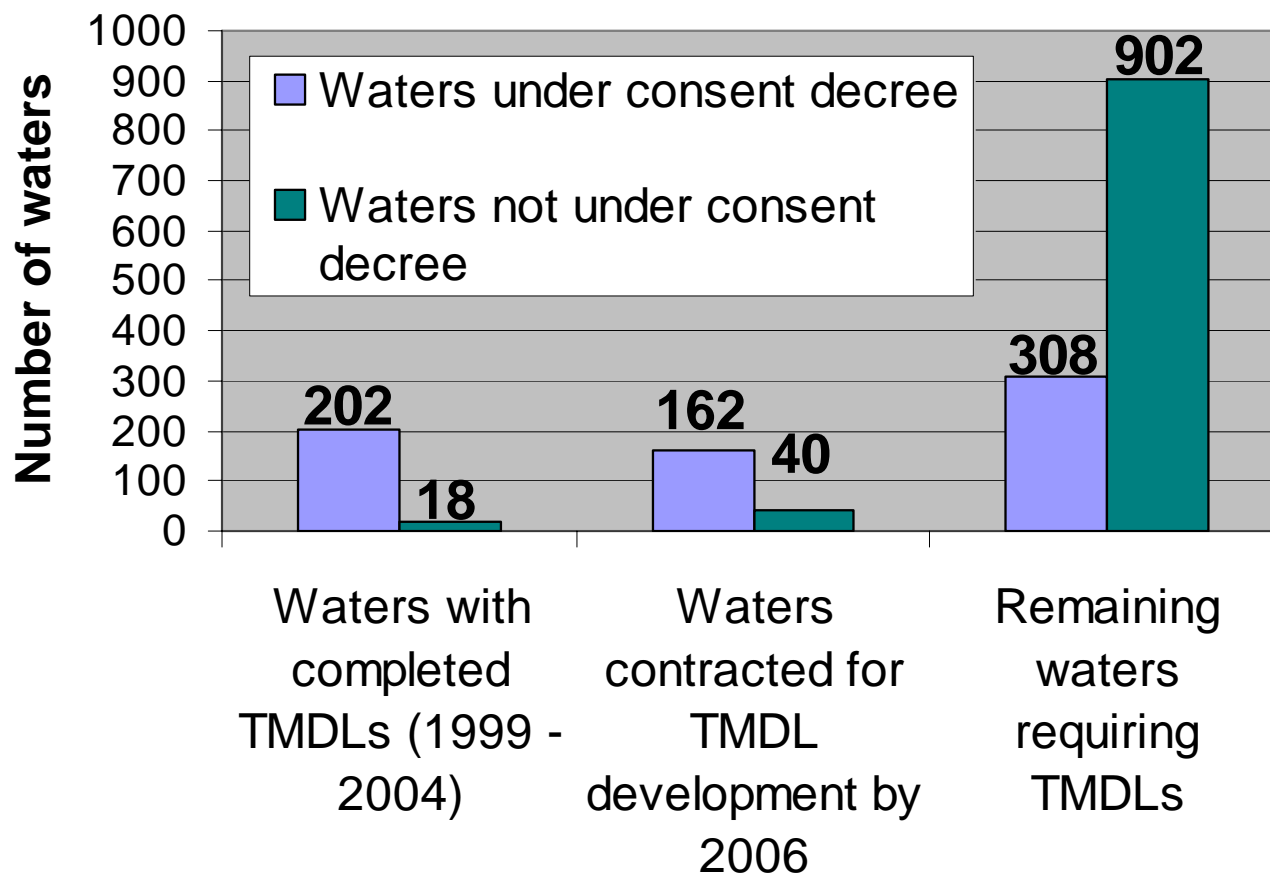
# Water Supply

- Local and Regional Water Supply Planning
  - 2008 – Local Govts > 35,000
  - 2009 – Local Govts > 15,000
  - 2010 – Local Govts < 15,000
  - 2011 – Regional Water Supply Plans



# Water Quality

## Status of TMDL development for impaired waters



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# Funding Needs

**\$600 Million**

State's Share of the  
Cost to Implement  
TMDLs in the  
Southern Rivers

**\$730 Million**

State's Share of  
Upgrading Sewage  
Treatment Plants in  
the Watershed

**\$580 Million**

State's Share to  
Implement  
Agricultural BMPs

The Most Cost Effective  
Combination That Will Produce  
The Greatest Water Quality  
Improvements.

**Total Cost to the State:**

**\$2.6 Billion**

**\$660 Million**

State's Share of the  
Cost to Implement  
Other Nonpoint  
BMPs

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# Land

- Over the past decade, Virginia has lost over 60,000 acres a year to development.
- This is approximately 188 acres per day.
- The USDA estimates that we lose over 20,000 acres of prime farmland each year to development.





# Land

- Currently, 13.4% of land protected statewide
- Currently, 17.4% of land protected in bay watershed.
- By 2010, 20% of land needs to be protected to meet the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement Goals.



# **Policies for the Future...**

## **Creative & Cost-Effective Solutions**

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# Policies for the Future...

- My philosophy towards historic and environmental protection focuses on finding market-based solutions to our challenges.



# **Air & Water Market-Based Initiatives**

- Mercury Trading
- Biofuels
- Nutrient Credit Trading Program
- Agricultural Partnerships

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# Land

## Market-Based Initiatives

- Urban lands must be maximized for people
  - Encourage localities to implement local tax abatement programs to encourage sensitive redevelopment.
  - Brownfields redevelopment



# Land

## Market-Based Initiatives

- Rural lands (open space) must be preserved for food production and material/resource production.
  - Protection of the land preservation tax credit program.
  - Support Agricultural Vitality Program
  - PDR's
  - TDR's

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# **Land**

## **Market-Based Initiatives**

- Transportation network must be maximized to support both the people in urban lands as well as the need to move goods, resources, and people in rural areas.



# **Governor's Initiatives...**

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# Land Initiatives

- Protect Land Preservation Tax Credit Program
- Major Strides Towards Meeting Bay Agreement Goals

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# Energy Opportunities

- SB 262 – Energy Plan Amendments
  - Adds income tax deduction for energy efficient appliances
  - Limits offshore exploration opportunities
  - Ethanol initiative
  - Energy Efficient Buildings



# What We Can Achieve



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# Questions?

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